

FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Oct 23, 2024

SEAN F. MCAVOY, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

KASSANDRA M. MONTELONGO (1);
LUIS ANGEL LARA (2);
ALEXANDRO AGUILAR (3);
RAFAEL MEDINA (5); and
NATHAN MENDOZA (6),

Defendants.

Nos. 1:23-CR-02039-MKD-1, -2, -3,
-5, -6

ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS
TO CONTINUE AND FIFTH CASE
MANAGEMENT ORDER

ECF Nos. 187, 188, 190

On October 22, 2024, the Court held a pretrial conference. ECF No. 193. AUSA Nowles Heinrich represented the United States. Defendant Cassandra Montelongo (1) was present and represented by Christine Bennett. Defendant Luis Lara (2) was present and represented by AFD Ben Hernandez. Alexandro Aguilar (3) was present in custody and represented by Rick Hernandez. Defendant Rafael Medina (5) was present and represented by Nick Marchi. Defendant Nathan Mendoza (6) was present and represented by Rick Hernandez, standing in for counsel of record Troy Lee.

1 Defendant Alexandro Aguilar (3) filed a Motion and Declaration to
2 Continue Pretrial and Trial Date, ECF No. 187. Defendants Kassandra
3 Montelongo (1) and Nathan Mendoza (6) filed joinders to this motion. ECF
4 Nos. 188, 190. Defendant Alexandro Aguilar (3) states that a continuance is
5 necessary to review discovery, investigate the United States' allegations, and
6 prepare a competent defense. In addition, counsel for Defendant Nathan
7 Mendoza (6) indicates that he requires further time to meet with his client and
8 prepare for trial, and he anticipates his office will be short-staffed for an upcoming
9 six-week period. ECF No. 190 at 2. The United States and all other Defendants do
10 not object to the requested continuance. ECF No. 187 at 2; *see also* ECF No. 193.
11 Each Defendant filed a Waiver of Speedy Trial Rights, accompanied by a
12 Statement of Reasons, in support of the Motion to Continue. ECF Nos. 189, 191,
13 192, 194, 195.

14 The Court has reviewed the motion and the record and is fully informed.
15 The Court finds that, taking into account the exercise of due diligence, the current
16 trial date of November 18, 2024, would unreasonably deny Defendant Aguilar (3)
17 and Defendant Mendoza (6) continuity of counsel and would deprive defense
18 counsel of adequate time to obtain and review discovery and conduct effective
19 preparation. 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(B)(iv). Therefore, the Court finds that the
20 ends of justice are served by a continuance in this matter and further that the ends

of justice served by a continuance outweigh the best interests of the public and each Defendant in a speedy trial. 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. Defendant Alexandro Aguilar's (3) Motion and Declaration to Continue Pretrial and Trial Date, **ECF No. 187**, joined by Defendant Kassandra Montelongo (1), **ECF No. 188**, Defendant Nathan Mendoza (6), **ECF No. 190**, and Defendants Luis Lara (2) and Rafael Medina (5), is **GRANTED**.

2. The current trial date of **November 18, 2024**, is **STRICKEN** and **RESET** for **March 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**, commencing with a final pretrial conference at **8:30 a.m.** Trial shall take place in **Yakima**, Washington.

3. A pretrial conference is **SET** for **February 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** in **Yakima**, Washington.

4. Counsel for defense shall notify Defendants of all hearings and ensure their attendance at court.

5. Local Criminal Rules. Counsel shall comply with the Eastern District of Washington Local Criminal Rules of Procedure (LCrR), except where specifically modified below or by subsequent Order.

6. Emailing the Court. Where this Order requires counsel to email documents to the Court, all documents shall be attached to the email in

1 Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) or rich-text (.rtf) format. The subject line of
2 each email shall be formatted as follows:

3 **[Case No.]; [Case Name]; [Title of Document]**

4 (e.g.: 13-cr-9999-MKD; USA v. Doe; Trial Brief)

5 **7. Discovery**

6 **A.** All discovery documents must be Bates-stamped with a unique
7 identifier and must be produced digitally in a text-searchable
8 format. The Court will grant relief from this requirement only
9 in exceptional circumstances, upon motion and good cause
10 shown.

11 **B.** Production of discovery shall be governed by Local Criminal
12 Rule 16. *See* LCrR 16.

13 **C.** The Court presumes a request for discovery and disclosure
14 under Federal Rules of Evidence 404(b), 608(b), and 609,
15 *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), *Giglio v. United States*,
16 405 U.S. 150 (1972), *United States v. Henthorn*, 931 F.2d 29
17 (9th Cir. 1991), and their progeny, and as such these items are
18 ordered disclosed by the deadline set forth in Local Criminal
19 Rule 16.

20 **D.** At arraignment or within 14 days thereafter, the United States is

1 required to disclose evidence relating to Defendant's guilt or
2 punishment that might reasonably be considered favorable to
3 the Defendant. *See* LCrR 16(a)(6); *see also Brady*, 373 U.S.
4 83; *United States v. Agurs*, 427 U.S. 97 (1976); Fed. R. Crim.
5 P. 5(f).¹ This is a continuing duty for newly discovered
6 evidence. LCrR 16(c); *see also* ECF Nos. 60, 61, 71, 91, 98.

7 **E.** Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 16(d)(2),
8 failure to comply may result in an order permitting the
9 discovery or inspection; granting a continuance; or any other
10 order that is just under the circumstances (including contempt,
11 sanctions, referral to a disciplinary authority, dismissal of
12 charges, exclusion of evidence or witnesses, and adverse jury
13 instructions).

14 **8. Expert Witness Summaries**

15 **A.** When each party produces to opposing counsel summaries of
16 its expert witness testimony for which disclosure is required
17

18 ¹ Nothing in this requirement enlarges or diminishes the United States' obligation
19 to disclose information and evidence to the Defendant under *Brady* and its
20 progeny.

under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 16 and Local Criminal Rule 16, counsel shall also email an electronic copy of the summary to the Court at DimkeOrders@waed.uscourts.gov.

B. All summaries of expert witness testimony must conform to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 16, Local Criminal Rule 16, and applicable case law interpreting those Rules. The Court will not permit an expert witness to testify about opinions which are not explicitly expressed in that expert's summary. *See, e.g., United States v. W.R. Grace*, 526 F.3d 499 (9th Cir. 2008).

9. CM/ECF Technical Assistance. Parties requiring technical assistance concerning the CM/ECF system, such as the procedures for filing non-scannable exhibits, shall consult the District's "Electronic How To" page (<https://www.waed.uscourts.gov/electronic-how>) or contact the CM/ECF Help Desk by phone at (866) 236-5100 or (509) 458-3410 or by email at ecfinfo@waed.uscourts.gov. Inquiries requesting technical assistance concerning the CM/ECF system shall not be directed to the Judge's chambers.

10. Motions Practice

A. Generally. All motions shall either be: a) noted for hearing

without oral argument fourteen (14) days after filing, or b) noted for hearing with oral argument at the pretrial conference pursuant to Local Criminal Rule 12(c). Responses and replies to motions must be filed in accordance with Local Criminal Rule 45 and 47, which incorporate the requirements of Local Civil Rule 7.1.

B. *Expedited Hearing.* Any party seeking an expedited hearing on a time-sensitive matter must comply with Local Criminal Rule 12(c)(3).

C. If a case has more than one defendant, the Court will construe any motion, including motions to continue, as applying to *all* defendants, unless that defendant indicates they do not wish to be joined in the motion. **Defendants thus do not need to file motions to join. Any Defendant wishing to opt out of a motion shall file a notice so stating within seven days of the filing of the motion.**

D. *Sealed Documents.* Any and all sealed documents shall be filed by the parties under the sealed event as a sealed document. The parties are not required to file a separate motion to seal a document. The parties shall file any objections to a sealed

document by no later than five days after the filing of the sealed document. The Court will thereafter review the sealed document and any objections filed to determine whether the document should be unsealed. Any party filing a sealed document shall email DimkeOrders@waed.uscourts.gov to inform the Court of the filing. The email shall note the ECF number of the sealed document and the general nature of the document.

11. Witness Testimony. At any hearing, including trial, in which witness testimony is given, the witness must testify in Court. Absent exceptional circumstances, a testifying witness may not appear by telephone or video conference.

12. Trial Continuances

A. Motion Deadline. All motions to continue the trial must be heard before or at the pretrial conference. **Any motion to continue trial made after the pretrial conference has occurred will not be granted absent exceptional circumstances.**

B. Statement of Reasons. If the Defendant seeks a continuance, a Speedy Trial Waiver and Statement of Reasons in support of

1 the motion to continue must be filed contemporaneously with
2 the motion.² The Statement of Reasons must 1) be signed by
3 the Defendant, 2) be signed by a certified translator, if
4 applicable, and 3) indicate the latest date upon which Defendant
5 is willing to proceed to trial. **The Court requests that the**
6 **Speedy Trial Waiver and Statement of Reasons extend two**
7 **weeks past the new proposed trial date.**

8 **C. Procedure.** Before filing a motion to continue, counsel shall
9 first contact the Courtroom Deputy at (509) 943-8172 to obtain
10 new pretrial conference and trial dates consistent with the
11 length of the requested trial continuance. Thereafter, counsel
12 shall confer with opposing counsel regarding case management
13 deadlines³ consistent with the new pretrial conference and trial
14

15 ² The Court's Speedy Trial Waiver and Statement of Reasons form can be found at
16 the following link:

17 [https://www.waed.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/forms/Speedy%20Trial%20Waiv](https://www.waed.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/forms/Speedy%20Trial%20Waiver%205-13-22.docx)
18 [er%205-13-22.docx](https://www.waed.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/forms/Speedy%20Trial%20Waiver%205-13-22.docx)

19 ³ A form with the Court's standard case management deadlines can be found at the
20 following link:

1 date. **All motions to continue must include proposed case**
2 **management deadlines (either joint or individual) to ensure**
3 **the to-be-imposed deadlines are best suited to this case.**

4 **13. Pretrial Conference**

- 5 **A.** The Pretrial Conference is scheduled as indicated in the
6 Summary of Deadlines below. At this hearing, the Court will
7 hear **ALL** pretrial motions that are noted for oral argument.
- 8 **B.** All pretrial conferences are scheduled to last no more than
9 **thirty (30) minutes**, with each side allotted **fifteen (15)**
10 **minutes** to present their own motions and resist motions by
11 opposing counsel. If any party anticipates requiring longer than
12 fifteen minutes, that party must notify the Courtroom Deputy at
13 least seven (7) days prior to the hearing. **Any party who fails**
14 **to provide this notice will be limited to fifteen (15) minutes.**
- 15 **C.** If a motion is to be heard with oral argument, and a party plans
16 to call witnesses or present exhibits, that party must file an
17 exhibit and/or witness list by no later than **72 hours** before the
18

19 <https://www.waed.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/forms/Proposed%20CMO%20D>
20 [ates%20for%20Public%20Website.docx](#)

hearing on the motion.

D. If a party intends to use a laptop, thumb drive, or DVD or CD for presentation of documents, or audio or video recordings, that party must contact the Courtroom Deputy at least **one week** prior to the hearing and confirm the compatibility of the technology and equipment.

E. If a party intends to use a demonstrative exhibit, such as a PowerPoint presentation, it must be submitted to the Court and all opposing parties at least **24 hours** prior to its intended use.

14. Exhibit Lists

A. On the date set forth in the Summary of Deadlines, after conferring with counsel, each party shall file a list of exhibits the party intends to introduce at trial. Each party shall also email copies of their exhibit list to the Court at DimkeOrders@waed.uscourts.gov.

The parties shall provide their exhibit list in the following format:

Ex. #	Admitted	Description
1		Photograph of items seized
2		Aerial video surveillance from 1/1/2011. Start Time: 01:03:23 End Time: 01:09:54

Exhibit lists shall include a unique exhibit number and a brief description of the exhibit. For all exhibits consisting of an audio or video file, the exhibit list must designate the precise beginning and ending time indexes of the portion of the file the party intends to use at trial.

B. The United States shall consecutively number their exhibits from **1 to 999**. In single-defendant cases, Defendant shall consecutively number exhibits from **1000 to 1999**; in multi-defendant cases, Defendants shall consecutively number exhibits from x000 to x999, substituting “x” for each Defendant’s assigned case identifier (e.g., Defendant 3 would number exhibits from 3000 to 3999, etc.). Exhibits shall be pre-marked for identification before trial commences.

1 **15. Witness Lists.** On the date set forth in the Summary of Deadlines,
2 after conferring with counsel, each party shall file and serve a list of
3 witnesses that party intends to call to testify at trial. **The witness list must**
4 **identify the existence, but need not include the name, of any confidential**
5 **informant (CI) the United States intends to call to testify.** Parties shall
6 email copies of their witness list to the Court at
7 DimkeOrders@waed.uscourts.gov.

8 **16. Trial Briefs, Proposed Jury Instructions and Verdict Form, and**
9 **Requested Voir Dire.** On the date set forth in the Summary of Deadlines,
10 after conferring with counsel, each party shall file a trial brief, proposed jury
11 instructions and verdict form, and requested voir dire, in accordance with the
12 requirements below. Each party shall email copies to the Court at
13 DimkeOrders@waed.uscourts.gov.

14 **A. Trial Briefs.** Trial briefs shall not exceed twenty (20) pages
15 without prior Court approval, upon motion and good cause
16 shown.

17 **B. Proposed Jury Instructions and Verdict Form.** Jury
18 instructions shall 1) address issues that are unique to the case,
19 and 2) include instructions regarding the elements of each
20 charge or defense. If a Ninth Circuit Model Jury Instruction

exists for a particular charge or defense, the parties shall provide the model instruction or shall submit argument as to why the instruction is inadequate or no longer supported by law. Proposed jury instructions shall be accompanied by a proposed verdict form. **The parties must confer to develop joint proposed jury instructions and the verdict form.** The Court will only accept an individual party's proposed jury instructions on those points/issues upon which the parties could not agree, and only if the party's memoranda accompanying the individually-proposed instruction(s) sets forth the legal authority and justification for why the instruction is necessary.

C. *Requested Voir Dire.* The parties may request that the Court include specific questions during the Court's standard voir dire. Requested voir dire shall not duplicate information elicited in the Clerk's Office Jury Questionnaire ("COJQ") and the Court's Criminal Jury Trial Procedures Letter.

17. Exhibit Binders. On the date set forth in the Summary of Deadlines, after conferring with counsel, each party must provide to all other parties and to the Court a Bates-stamped copy of all trial exhibits — or, in the case of physical exhibits, a photograph or other reproduction of the exhibit — the

1 party intends to introduce at trial. All trial exhibits shall be organized
2 sequentially by exhibit number in a three-ring binder.

3 **18. JERS**

4 **A.** The Court utilizes the Jury Evidence Recording System (JERS),
5 a system that makes electronic evidence available in the jury
6 room during deliberations. **Counsel shall promptly consult**
7 **the Court’s “JERS Instructions for Attorneys”⁴ to ensure**
8 **they acquire, retain, and provide evidence to the Court in**
9 **the necessary format.**

10 **B.** On the date set forth in the Summary of Deadlines, after
11 conferring with counsel, each party who intends to introduce
12 evidence at trial must supply a CD, DVD, or USB drive to the
13 Courtroom Deputy containing all of that party’s exhibits in the
14 required format. Counsel may contact the Courtroom Deputy at
15 (509) 943-8172 with any questions.

18 ⁴ This document can be found on the Court’s public website at the following link:
19 [https://www.waed.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/support/jers_basics_for_lawyers](https://www.waed.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/support/jers_basics_for_lawyers%207.2024.pdf)
20 [%207.2024.pdf](https://www.waed.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/support/jers_basics_for_lawyers%207.2024.pdf)

19. Trial Notices. On the date set forth in the Summary of Deadlines, after conferring with counsel, each party shall file a notice that indicates the amount of time requested for opening statement and for voir dire. In addition, defense counsel must indicate if his/her client waives presence at sidebar and jury questions.

20. Technology Readiness Meeting. On the date set forth in the Summary of Deadlines, any party seeking to offer video or audio evidence at trial must meet with Court staff at the location of the trial to verify compatibility with the Court's presentation systems. The parties shall contact the Courtroom Deputy at (509) 943-8172 to arrange this meeting.

21. Summary of Deadlines

United States' Expert Disclosures	January 3, 2025
All pretrial motions, including discovery motions, <i>Daubert</i> motions, and motions <i>in limine</i>	
Motions filed:	January 21, 2025
Responses filed:	February 4, 2025
Replies filed:	February 11, 2025
PRETRIAL CONFERENCE	February 18, 2025
<i>Deadline for motions to continue trial</i>	10:00 a.m. - YAKIMA
<i>Ex Parte</i> CI disclosure packet filed	February 19, 2025
CIs' identities and willingness to be interviewed disclosed to Defendant (if applicable)	February 24, 2025
Reciprocal discovery disclosures	February 24, 2025
Grand jury transcripts produced to Defendant	
Case Agent:	February 24, 2025
CIs:	
Other Witnesses:	

Exhibit lists filed and emailed to the Court	February 24, 2025
Witness lists filed and emailed to the Court	February 24, 2025
Trial briefs, jury instructions, verdict forms, and requested voir dire filed and emailed to the Court	February 24, 2025
Exhibit binders delivered to all parties and to the Court	March 3, 2025
Delivery of JERS-compatible digital evidence files to the Courtroom Deputy	March 3, 2025
Trial notices filed with the Court	March 3, 2025
Technology readiness meeting (in-person)	March 3, 2025
FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE	March 10, 2025 8:30 a.m. - YAKIMA
JURY TRIAL	March 10, 2025 9:00 a.m. - YAKIMA

18. A Waiver of Speedy Trial Rights, accompanied by a Statement of Reasons, has been signed and filed by each Defendant. **ECF Nos. 189, 191, 192, 194, 195.** All time from the current trial date of **November 18, 2024**, to the new trial date of **March 10, 2025**, is **EXCLUDED** for all Defendants for speedy trial calculations pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7).

19. All time from the filing of the Motion to Continue on **October 4, 2024**, to the date of the motion hearing on **October 22, 2024**, is **EXCLUDED** for speedy trial calculations pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(1)(D).

IT IS SO ORDERED. The Clerk's Office is directed to enter this Order and provide copies to all counsel, the U.S. Probation Office, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

DATED October 23, 2024.

s/Mary K. Dimke

MARY K. DIMKE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE